

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 05536 160522Z

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 DODE-00 SY-04 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 /030 W

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R 160412Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9976

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG UDORN THAILAND

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 5536

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, LA, CASC

SUBJECT: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN GIBSON CASE

1. GIBSON, HIS WIFE AND SAMLOR DRIVER, BROUGHT TO OFFICES OF PROCUREUR DU ROI MONDAY, MARCH 15 AT 9:30 A.M., FOR FORMAL QUESTIONING. AFTER HEARING WITNESSES AND READING POLICE REPORTS, PROSECUTOR RELEASED GIBSON'S WIFE BUT HAD GIBSON HELD ON FOLLOWING THREE CHARGES: 1) CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MURDER, 2) ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF GUN, AND 3) ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO LAOS.

2. GIBSON REMANDED TO CUSTODY OF SAM KHE, WHICH IS LAO NATIONAL PRISON. HIS CASE HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO JUDGE OF COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE WHO WILL FURTHER INVESTIGATE CASE AND MORE PRECISELY DEFINE CHARGES, IF ANY, AGAINST GIBSON. AT THAT POINT, GIBSON ABLE TO APPLY FOR BAIL. PROCEDURE IS CONSERVATIVELY ESTIMATED TO TAKE AT LEAST THREE WEEKS.

3. GIBSON IN PROCESS OF CHOOSING LAWYER. AIRGRAM FURTHER DETAILING CHARGES AND COMPLICATIONS IN GIBSON CASE FOLLOWS.

4. RADIO PATHET LAO REPORTED FACTUALLY VERY SAME
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DAY THAT JOINT POLICE HAD DECIDED TO PROSECUTE "THE

U.S. LIEUTENANT COLONEL".
OTHERWISE, THE RADIO HAS
NOT PLAYED UP THE CASE SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THE PAST
FEW WEEKS.
WHITEHOUSE

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